UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _02 February 2004_.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
      closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-89_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-89_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _02 February 2004_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
        application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _2/14/05; 12/28/04; 5/20/04_

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed

in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for

patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an

international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this

subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United

States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-5, 8-44, and 47-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Wood (US Pub. No. 2003/0146836 A1).

Referring to claim 1, Wood discloses a system comprising:

an environmental sensor associated with a product in a container (figure 5);

at least one scanner for scanning the sensor at one or more locations to read product

environment data from the sensor (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and

[0092]; figures 6-7); and

a computer connected to communicate with the at least one scanner, the computer

generating a transporting instruction for transporting the container and product based on the

scanned product environment data (page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7).

As to claim 2, Wood discloses a system, wherein the transporting instruction is generated

based on determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has

transcended a limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in figure

6).

Referring to claim 3, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor stores shipping address data of a receiver to which the container and product are to be sent, the transporting performed by a carrier so as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting performed differently to other than the receiver if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0089]; page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60).

As to claim 4, Wood discloses a system, wherein the at least one scanner is further used for scanning identification data from at least one of the container and product (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0080]).

Referring to claim 5, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor generates time data and stores product environment data in association with the time data to indicate the time of sensing the environment condition (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 8, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensor tag, and the scanner transmits and receives radio frequency signals from the tag in the performance of scanning the sensor (page 1, paragraphs [0007] and [0009]; page 2, paragraphs [0014] and [0016]; page 4, paragraph [0078]).

Referring to claim 9, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor is placed inside the container (page 4, paragraph [0075]; figure 5).

As to claim 10, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor is affixed to an outer surface of the container (page 4, paragraph [0074]; figure 4).

Referring to claim 11, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor is positioned on the product inside of the container (page 4, paragraph [0073]; figure 3).

As to claim 12, Wood discloses a system, wherein the environmental condition sensed by the sensor to generate the product environment data includes at least one of temperature, pressure, vacuum, vibration, shock, humidity, moisture, light, air, and a chemical (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 13, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a temperature sensor, and the product environment data generated by the sensor comprises at least one measurement of a temperature level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 14, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor, and the product environment data generated by the pressure sensor comprises at least one measurement of a pressure level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 15, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a vacuum sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vacuum sensor comprises at least one measurement of a vacuum level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 16, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a light sensor, and the product environment data generated by the light sensor comprises at least one measurement of an amount of light to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 17, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a chemical

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the chemical sensor comprises at least

one measurement of an amount of a chemical to which the product has been exposed (page 1,

paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 18, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises an air sensor, and

the product environment data generated by the air sensor comprises at least one measurement of

an amount of air to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2,

paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 19, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a vibration

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vibration sensor comprises at least

one measurement of an amount of vibration to which the product has been exposed (page 1,

paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 20, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a shock sensor,

and the product environment data generated by the shock sensor comprises at least one

measurement of an amount of shock to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph

[0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 21, Wood discloses a system, wherein the sensor comprises a humidity

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the humidity sensor comprises at least

one measurement of an amount of humidity to which the product has been exposed (page 1,

paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 22, Wood discloses a system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor

comprises a moisture sensor, and the product environment data generated by the moisture sensor

comprises at least one measurement of an amount of moisture to which the product has been

exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 23, Wood discloses a computer system comprising: a server capable of

communicating with a plurality of remote computers via a network, said remote computers

operable to transmit at least one of product environment data, tracking data and identification

data associated with at least one of a container and product, to the server via the network (page 9,

2nd col., lines 15-18); and

a database accessible by the server for storing product environment and tracking data in

association with identification data (page 6, paragraphs [0096] and [0097]; figure 7).

As to claim 24, Wood discloses the computer system, wherein the tracking data

comprises time and location data identifying when and where at least one scanning operation of a

contained product took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 25, Wood discloses the computer system, wherein the identification

data comprises a tracking identifier uniquely identifying at least one of the container and product

(page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 26, Wood discloses an apparatus comprising:

a database storage unit storing:

identification data associated with at least one of a container and product (page 1,

paragraph [0008]);

tracking data associated with the identification data (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5,

paragraph [0083]); and

product environment data associated with the identification data and the tracking data

(page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18; figure 7).

Referring to claim 27, Wood discloses the apparatus, wherein the tracking data comprises

time and location data identifying when and where, respectively, at, least one corresponding

scanning of the contained product took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph

[0083]).

As to claim 28, Wood discloses the apparatus, wherein the identification data comprises a

tracking identifier uniquely identifying at least one of the container and product (page 1,

paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 29, Wood discloses a method comprising:

scanning an environmental sensor physically associated with a product in a container at

one or more locations to read product environment data from the sensor (page 2, paragraph

[0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7) and

transporting the container and product based on the product environment data (page 5,

paragraphs [0088] and [0092]).

As to claim 30, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has

transcended a limit based on the product environment data,

the transporting step being performed based on the determining step (Blocks 577, and

575 in figure 6; page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]).

Referring to claim 31, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container has a shipping

label having shipping address data indicating a shipping address of a receiver to which the

container and product are to be sent, the transporting performed so as to transport the container

and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining has not

established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting

performed differently if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph

[0008]; page 4, paragraph [0078]; page 5, paragraph [0089]; page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60).

As to claim 32, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor stores shipping address

data of a receiver to which the container and product are to be sent, the transporting performed so

as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so

long as the determining has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the

limit, and the transporting performed differently if the environmental condition has transcended

the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0078]; page 5, paragraph [0089]; page 7,

1st col., lines 58-60).

Referring to claim 33, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container and product are

routed to an alternate destination if the determining establishes that the environmental condition

has transcended the limit (page 5, paragraph [0089]).

As to claim 34, Wood discloses a method, wherein the alternate destination includes a

disposal site (page 5, paragraph [0089]; figure 7).

Referring to claim 35, Wood discloses a method, wherein the alternate destination

includes a different receiver than the receiver to whom the container and product were originally

to be sent (page 5, paragraph [0089]; figure 7).

As to claim 36, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

transmitting the product environment data via a network from a scanner performing the

scanning, to a computer system for storage therein (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 37, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the steps of:

scanning identification data from at least one of the container and product (page 2,

paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7);

transmitting the identification data to the computer system (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18);

receiving identification data and product environment data from the scanner at the

computer system via the network (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18); and   .

storing the product environment data in association with the identification data at the

computer system (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

As to claim 38, Wood discloses a method, wherein the determining is performed by the

computer system based on the received product environment data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 39, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the step of

generating a transporting instruction at the computer system for performance of the transporting

based on the product environment data (page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]).

As to claim 40, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the transporting instruction from the computer system to at least one point

within a carrier's logistics network for performance of the transporting step (figure 7).

Referring to claim 41, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the steps of:

generating tracking data including at least one of the time and location of the product

during the performance of the scanning (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083];

transmitting the tracking data to the computer system;

receiving tracking data at the computer system; and

recording the tracking data in association with the identification data and product

environment data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18; figure 7).

As to claim 42, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

receiving at the computer system via the network a request from a user of a computing

device to access product environment data for a package, the request including identification data

associated with at least one of the container and product (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

retrieving the product environment data based on the identification data (page 9, 1st col.,

lines 1-7); and

transmitting the product environment data from the computer system to the computing

device via the network (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7; page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 43, Wood discloses a method, wherein the determining is performed

by the sensor to produce determination data scanned in the scanning step (Blocks 577, 575, and

576 in figure 6).

As to claim 44, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor generates time data and

stores product environment data in association with the time data to indicate the time of sensing

the environmental condition (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 47, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container is a package

(page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figures 4-5).

As to claim 48, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container is a shipping container

(page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figures 4-5).

Referring to claim 49, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensor tag, and the scanner transmits and receives radio frequency signals from the tag in the performance of the scanning step (page 1, paragraphs [0007] and [0009]; page 2, paragraphs [0014] and [0016]; page 4, paragraphs [0078]).

As to claim 50, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor is placed inside the container (page 4, paragraph [0075]; figure 5).

Referring to claim 51, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor is affixed to an outer surface of the container (page 4, paragraph [0074]; figure 4).

As to claim 52, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor is positioned on the product inside of the container (page 4, paragraph [0073]; figure 3).

Referring to claim 53, Wood discloses a method, wherein the environmental condition sensed by the sensor to generate the product environment data includes at least one of temperature, pressure, vacuum, vibration, shock, humidity, moisture, light, air, and a chemical (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 54, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a temperature sensor, and the product environment data generated by the temperature sensor comprises at least one measurement of a temperature level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 55, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor, and the product environment data generated by the pressure sensor comprises at least one measurement of a pressure level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 56, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a vacuum

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vacuum sensor comprises at least one

measurement of a vacuum level to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph

[0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 57, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a light

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the light sensor comprises at least one

measurement of an amount of light to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph

[0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 58, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a chemical

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the chemical sensor comprises at least

one measurement of an amount of a known chemical to which the product has been exposed

(page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 59, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises an air

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the air sensor comprises at least one

measurement of an amount of air to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph

[0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 60, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a vibration

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the vibration sensor comprises at least

one measurement of an amount of vibration to which the product has been exposed (page 1,

paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 61, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a shock

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the shock sensor comprises at least one

measurement of an amount of shock to which the product has been exposed (page 1, paragraph

[0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1ˢᵗ col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 62, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a humidity

sensor, and the product environment data generated by the humidity sensor comprises at least

one measurement of an amount of humidity to which the product has been exposed (page 1,

paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1ˢᵗ col., lines 1-5).

Referring to claim 63, Wood discloses a method, wherein the sensor comprises a

moisture sensor, and the product environment data generated by the moisture sensor comprises at

least one measurement of an amount of moisture to which the product has been exposed (page 1,

paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1ˢᵗ col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 64, Wood discloses a method, further comprising:

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has

transcended a first limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in

figure 6),

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has

transcended a second limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 581, 582, and 583 in

figure 6),

the transporting step being performed based on the determining steps (Block 584 in

figure 6).

Referring to claim 65, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container and product are

transported using a faster level of service than is currently being used to transport the container

and product, if the determining establishes that the environmental condition has transcended the

first limit, but not the second limit (page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]; figure 7).

As to claim 66, Wood discloses a method, wherein the container and product are routed

to an alternate destination if the determining establishes that the environmental condition has

transcended both the first limit and the second limit (page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094];

figure 7).

Referring to claim 67, Wood discloses a method comprising:

receiving identification data associated with at least one of a container and product at a

computer system via a network from a remote scanner (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

receiving product environment data at the computer system via the network from the

remote scanner, said product environment data obtained by scanning an environmental sensor

associated with the contained product (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

storing the product environment data in association with the identification data in the

computer system (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7);

receiving tracking data associated with the contained product at the computer system via

the network from the remote scanner (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

storing the tracking data in association with the identification data and the product

environment data in the computer system (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7).

As to claim 68, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking data comprises time and

location data identifying, respectively, when and where the scanning took place (page 1,

paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 69, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking identifier is identified in a printed medium attached to the package (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

As to claim 70, Wood discloses a method, wherein the printed medium comprises a shipping label (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

Referring to claim 71, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking identifier is identified by a shipping label attached to a container enclosing the product (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

As to claim 72, Wood discloses a method, wherein the tracking identifier is stored in the sensor and read by a scanner to identify the contained product (page 4, paragraph [0078]; figure 4).

Referring to claim 73, Wood discloses a method, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to access product environment data from a remote computing device via the network (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

transmitting the product environment data in association with the tracking data (page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18).

As to claim 74, Wood discloses a method, wherein the computing system receives user identification data in the request received from the remote computing device, the method further comprising the step of:

determining whether the user is authorized to access the product environment data based on the user identification data (page 6, paragraph [0096]; page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7); and

selectively transmitting the product environment data to the user, if the determining establishes that the user is authorized to access the product environment data (page 6, paragraph [0096]; page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7).

Referring to claim 75, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium storing a computer program that can be executed by a computer to receive product environment data, said product environment data obtained by scanning an environmental sensor associated with a product in a container, and to generate a transporting instruction for transporting the container and product based on the product environment data (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7).

As to claim 76, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the transporting instruction is generated based on determining whether the environmental condition of the product in the container has transcended a limit based on the product environment data (Blocks 577, 575, and 576 in figure 6).

Referring to claim 77, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the container has a shipping label having shipping address data indicating a shipping address of a receiver to which the container and product are to be sent, the transporting instruction indicating the transporting be performed by a carrier so as to transport the container and product to the receiver based on the shipping address data so long as the determining step has not established that the environmental condition has transcended the limit, and the transporting instruction indicating the transporting be performed differently if the environmental condition has transcended the limit (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0089], page 7, 1st col., lines 58-60; figures 6-7).

As to claim 78, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to transmit the transporting instruction to at least one point within a carrier's logistics network for performance of transporting the container and product (figure 7).

Referring to claim 79, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to receive identification data associated with at least one of the container and product, and store the identification data in association with the product environment data (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 4, paragraph [0080]).

As to claim 80, wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer program can further be executed to receive tracking data, and store the tracking data in association with the product environment data (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

Referring to claim 81, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the tracking data comprises time and location data identifying, respectively, when and where the scanning was performed (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 82, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the container is a package (page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figure 4-5).

Referring to claim 83, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the container is a shipping container (page 4, paragraphs [0074] and [0075]; figures 4-5).

As to claim 84, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the sensor comprises a radio-frequency identification (RFID) sensor tag, and a scanner transmits and

receives radio frequency signals from the tag in the performance of the scanning step (page 1,

paragraphs [0007] and [0009]; page 2, paragraphs [0014] and [0016]; page 4, paragraph [0078]).

Referring to claim 85, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the

environmental condition sensed by the sensor to generate the product environment data includes

at least one of temperature, pressure, vacuum, vibration, shock, humidity, moisture, light, air, and

a chemical (page 1, paragraph [0012]; page 2, paragraph [0017]; page 7, 1st col., lines 1-5).

As to claim 86, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium storing a computer

program that can be executed by a computer to: receive product environment data at the

computer via a network from a remote scanner, said product environment data obtained by

scanning an environmental sensor associated with a contained product; store the product

environment data in the computer; receive tracking data associated with the contained product at

the computer via the network from the remote scanner; and store the tracking data in association

with the product environment data in the computer (page 2, paragraph [0014]; page 5, paragraphs

[0088] and [0092]; page 9, 2nd col., lines 15-18; figures 6-7) .

Referring to claim 87, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein said

tracking data comprises time and location data identifying when and where, respectively, the

scanning took place (page 1, paragraph [0008]; page 5, paragraph [0083]).

As to claim 88, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the computer

program can further be executed to receive a request to access the product environment data

from a remote computing device via the network, and transmit the product environment data in

association with the tracking data (page 9, 1st col., lines 1-7 and 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Referring to claim 89, Wood discloses a computer-readable medium, wherein the

computer program can further be executed to: receive user identification data in the request

received from the remote computing device; determine whether the user is authorized to access

the product environment data based on the user identification data; and selectively transmit the

product environment data to the user, if the determining step establishes that the user is

authorized to access the product environment data (page 6, paragraph [0096]; page 9, 1st col.,

lines 1-7 and 2nd col., lines 15-18).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6-7 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Wood as applied to claims 1 and 30 above, and further in view of Easley et al. (US Pub. No.

2005/0073406 A1).

Referring to claims 6-7 and 45-46, Wood discloses a system and a method of:

scanning an environmental sensor physically associated with a product in a container at

one or more locations to read product environment data from the sensor (page 2, paragraph

[0014]; page 5, paragraphs [0088] and [0092]; figures 6-7);

transporting the container and product based on the product environment data (page 5,

paragraphs [0088] and [0092]);

determining whether the environmental condition of the contained product has

transcended a limit based on the product environment data;

the transporting step being performed based on the determining step (Blocks 577, and

575 in figure 6; page 5, paragraphs [0089] and [0094]).

Wood does not teach or suggest the sensor comprises a visual indicator comprising at

least one light-emitting diode (LED) that illuminates in response to the environment condition to

which the product is subjected transcending a limit.

Easley et al. disclose the sensor comprises a visual indicator comprising at least one light-

emitting diode (LED) that illuminates in response to the environment condition to which the

product is subjected transcending a limit (page 3, paragraph [0048]; page4, paragraph [0062]).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have applied the sensor as described by Easley et al. reference

into the method and system of Wood's reference to monitor the container environment and

provide a security alarm to the container visually and/or audibly in detecting breaches in the

container integrity.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Toan M. Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-2276. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..
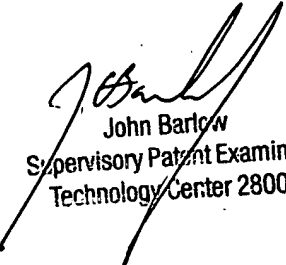
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Toan Le

May 20, 2005

John Barlow
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